

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

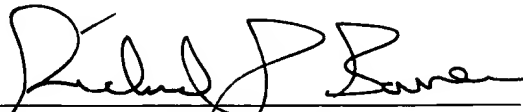
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the below-listed information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All

correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Marked-up Claims

5. (Once Amended) A shoe as in claim 3₁ [or 4] wherein
[,] said load distributor is a series of stepped notches.

6. (Once Amended) A shoe as in claim 3₁ [or 4] wherein
[,] said load distributor is a contoured recess.

7. (Once Amended) A shoe as in claim 1 [, 2, 3, or 4]₁
wherein [,] said force redirector provides pivotal movement of said
upper surface.